

California - Baja California

Border Environmental Program

WHO WE ARE

The Border Environmental Program (BEP) is a multi-disciplinary group comprised of professionals representing the State of California and the State of Baja California working together to address common issues in the Border Region. California's representatives include the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Resources Agency, the California Health and Human Services Agency, participating Tribal Nations, the California Trade and Commerce Agency, the California Department of Justice, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Baja California is represented by the Dirección General de Ecología and by the Comisiones Estatales de Servicios Públicos, Procuraduría Federal De Protección Al Ambiente (PROFEPA), and Secretaría de Medio Ambiente Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).

The Border Environmental Program is directed and coordinated by the Border Affairs Unit within the California Environmental Protection Agency.

WHY WE WORK TOGETHER

The California - Baja California Border Region is a dynamic, ever-changing region with remarkable environmental challenges, cultural diversity, sensitive natural resources, and

technological differences. To address these environmental issues that affect both sides of the border, a concerted and collaborative effort is required. This coordinated effort addresses issues with a multi-media basis that involves air, water, waste, and public health issues. Multi-disciplinary representatives that comprise the Border Environmental Coordinators Group implement this effort. These coordinators work with their individual departments and Mexican counterparts to provide the necessary efforts to address shared environmental challenges.

The Border Environmental Program also works in conjunction with other programs to ensure coordination and collaboration in addressing environmental issues. Some of the other programs include the State of California's Permit Assistance Centers Program to ensure that businesses obtain the right types of permits and approvals to meet environmental requirements; and the Environmental Management Systems Program to help promote the use of technological advancements. The BEP also works closely with the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADBank) to address environmental infrastructure issues. Finally, the program works with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico's SEMARNAT in coordinating bi-national border environmental efforts.

WHAT WE DO

The **mission** of the program is to work "toward a better environment within our shared border" by identifying and resolving mutual environmental and natural resource challenges and the resulting public health issues. We achieve our mission through the use of science and technology, uniform enforcement of

environmental laws and regulations, and with the cooperation and active participation of tribal nations, academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and the public.

OUR VISION

Our **vision** of this program is to establish a standard of excellence for international cooperation and collaboration that focuses on resolving environmental and natural resource issues to help ensure the future quality of a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous border.

PROGRAM FOCUS

The program focuses its efforts in addressing issues in a multi-media approach. Moreover, we value the participation and communication of the public in addressing such issues. Our goals are to:

- ☐ Protect the environment
- ☐ Restore and conserve natural resources
- ☐ Achieve and maintain a high standard of public health
- ☐ Increase sharing and use of science and technology
- ☐ Ensure uniform enforcement of environmental laws and regulations

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

California and Baja California are committed to a partnership that will work toward a common vision and establish open communication and sharing of knowledge and information, science

and technology, and staff resources. Both states are committed to engaging their border communities and other stakeholders to serve border interests as a whole, to work together to enhance the technical capabilities and professional development of its staff, and to recognize community efforts.

The community activity that both states seek includes the cooperation and active participation of tribal nations, academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and the public.

The efforts of the Border Affairs Unit to solicit your participation includes a web page at <http://bep.calepa.ca.gov> that provides links to many other related web pages. In addition, both states in collaboration are developing a Border Environmental Strategic Vision with goals and objectives that address longstanding environmental challenges, including a process to notify each other of potential environmental impacts. The public and others will be asked to comment on such assessments through a Public Review Process. Finally, in order to obtain ongoing feedback, the Border Affairs Unit will establish contacts with public agencies, colleges and universities, and other non-governmental entities.

PUBLICATIONS

The Cal/EPA Border Affairs Unit publishes several documents that are utilized by regulatory agencies, businesses, environmental organizations, researchers, and students interested in the California – Baja California Border Region. These publications are available on a single copy basis.

1. **Cal/EPA Border Environmental Program Strategic Vision** – A document to guide the efforts of the

Cal/EPA's Boards, Departments, and Office when addressing environmental issues in the Border Region.

2. **Border Region Colonias** – A document that describes the environmental concerns in residential areas in Imperial County that have been identified as "colonias".
3. **Proceedings of the California-Baja California Exchange of Governmental Information Workshop** – A listing of most major California and Mexican Environmental Agencies working in the California – Baja California Border Region. The proceedings include a description of the mission of each agency, contact information, and descriptions of major environmental programs of each agency.
4. **Cal/EPA Border Region Environmental Agreements** - Contains copies of all environmental agreements signed between Cal/EPA and Agencies in the Border Region.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the Border Environmental Program or its activities, please contact:

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California Environmental Protection Agency

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**Working Toward a
Better Environment
In Our Shared
Border Region**